

Message Text

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TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS FULL TEXT TO LES JANKA

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, HEADLINED "MR. KISSINGER'S SHOCKER."

2. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER DOES NOT HAVE TO RESIGN. ALL HE HAS TO DO IS CLEAR THE RECORD ON HIS ROLE IN THE DISTASTEFUL BUSINESS OF WIRETAPPING HIS OWN AIDES ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL BETWEEN 1969 AND 1971. IF MR. KISSINGER FEELS HIS HONOR HAS BEEN IMPUGNED, HE HAS LARGELY HIMSELF TO BLAME -- HIMSELF AND AN OVERLY PROTECTIVE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

3. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE SECRETARY AND THE COMMITTEE TRIED TO MINIMIZE MR. KISSINGER'S ROLE AND THE DEGREE OF HIS AWARENESS OF THE WIRETAPPING OPERATION WAS JUST NOT CREDIBLE. IT WAS TOO SECRETIVE, TOO EVASIVE. THEREFORE, THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST FOR A REOPENING OF SENATE HEARINGS

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ON THE MATTER IS WELCOME. WE HOPE THAT CLEARER, MORE

RESPONSIVE TESTIMONY WILL SHOW THAT IN BALANCING
NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS AGAINST INFRINGEMENT OF

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, MR. KISSINGER WILL BE SHOWN TO HAVE
LIVED UP TO HIS PROFESSED PRIORITY FOR THE LATTER. WE
HOPE TOO, THAT HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON WIRETAPPING WILL
BE PROVEN TO HAVE BEEN NO WORSE THAN LEGITIMATE
IF NOT ADMIRABLE DISSEMBLING.

4. ALTHOUGH IT IS GRATIFYING THAT MR. KISSINGER WILL
TRY TO CLARIFY THE RECORD, AND QUICKLY, HIS ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THIS INTENTION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE ILL-PLACED
AND ILL-TIMED. TO SPEAK OUT ON FOREIGN SOIL SHORTLY
BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST WAS
IRRESPONSIBLE. THAT IS THE ONLY WORD FOR IT. MR.
KISSINGER SHOULD HAVE SAID WHAT HE HAD TO SAY AT HIS
PRESS CONFERENCE LAST THURSDAY. OR OVER THE WEEKEND,
BEFORE TAKE-OFF. BY THAT TIME MOST OF THE ALLEGATIONS
THAT THE SECRETARY FINDS SO OFFENSIVE HAD ALREADY
SURFACED.

5. INSTEAD, BY IMPULSE OR DESIGN, MR. KISSINGER RAISED
THE SPECTER OF RESIGNATION AT A MOMENT OF MAXIMUM SHOCK
EFFECT. HIS ACTION MAY ELICIT EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY,
NEW ACCOLADES ABOUT HIS UNDOUBTED DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS
AND APPEALS THAT HE REMAIN IN OFFICE, TO WHICH WE WOULD
ADD OUR OWN. BUT OVER THE LONG RUN, IT WILL NOT ENHANCE
HIS REPUTATION OR INCREASE HIS EFFECTIVENESS IN CONDUCTING
FOREIGN POLICY. SISCO

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